HOUSING MARKET INFORMATION

RENTAL MARKET REPORT

Prince Edward Island Highlights*

CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

Date Released: Fall 2010

Figure 1

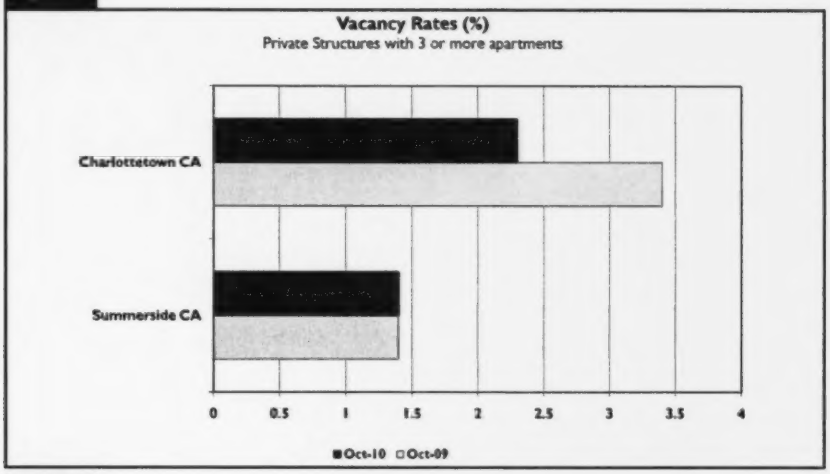
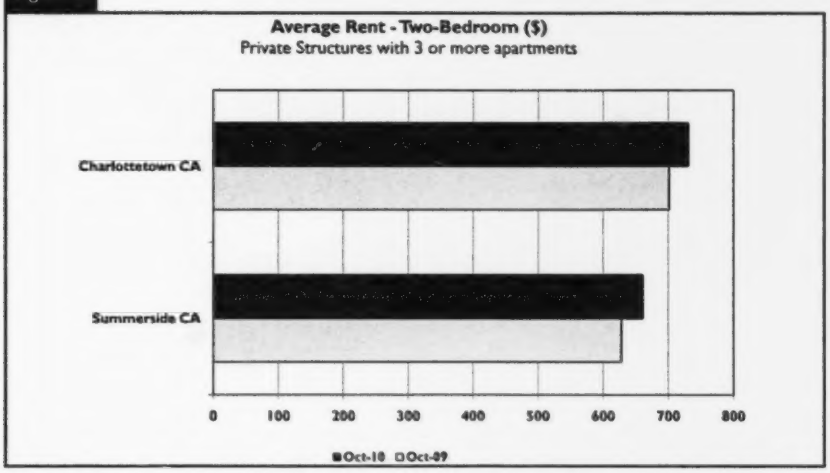


Figure 2



*Only centres with a population of 10,000 + are included in the survey. Detailed reports are available for CMAs.

Vacancy Rate Lower on Prince Edward Island

- The overall vacancy rate in Prince Edward Island's urban centres stood at 2.2 per cent in October 2010, down from 3.1 per cent a year ago.
- Charlottetown's vacancy rate in October 2010 was 2.3 per cent compared to 3.4 per cent last fall.
- Summerside's vacancy rate of 1.4 per cent was unchanged from a year earlier.
- The average two-bedroom rent in Charlottetown was $731 compared to the Summerside average of $661.

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Overview

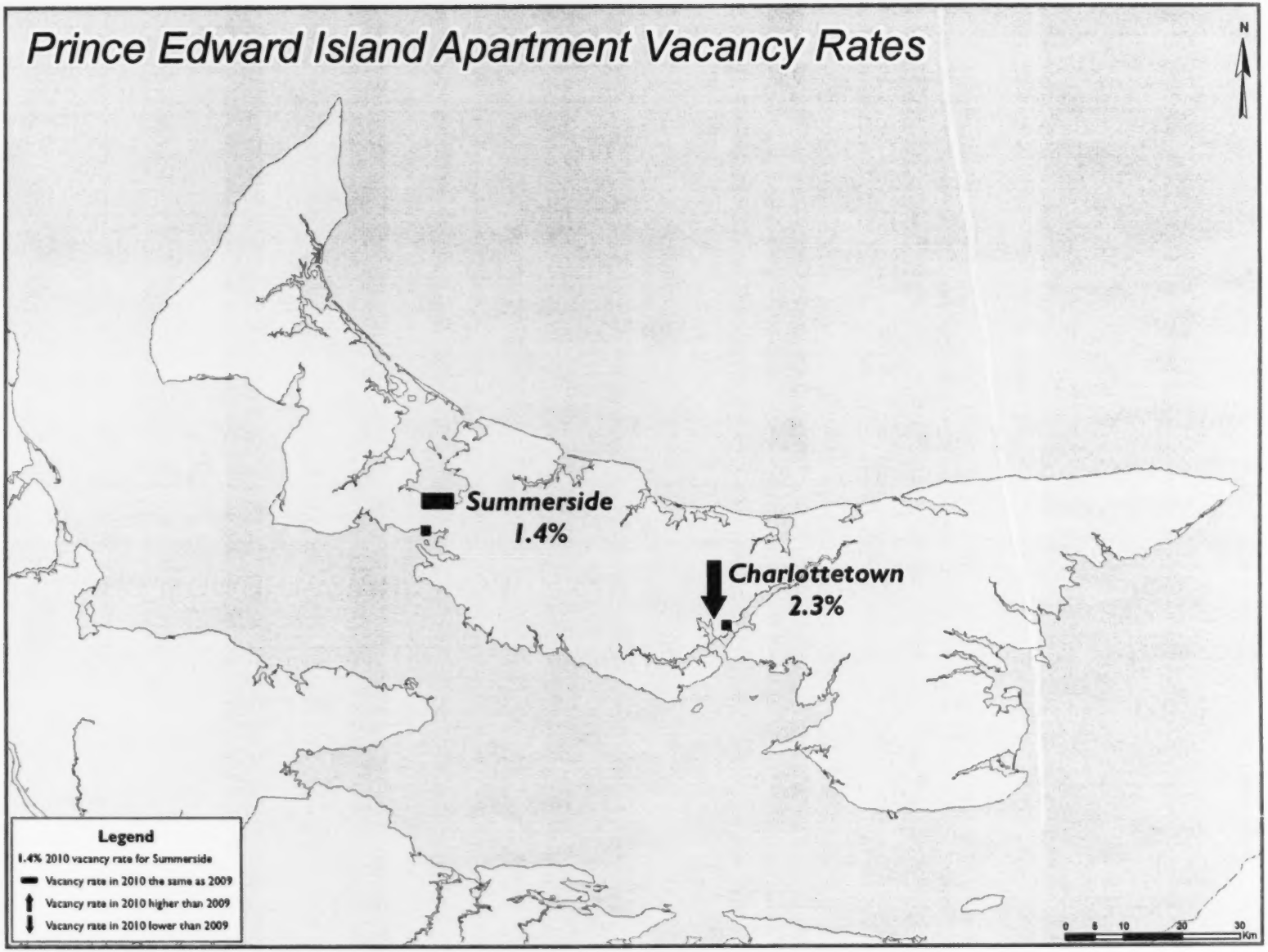
Results from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 2010 Rental Market Survey, which was conducted during the first two weeks of October, indicate that the vacancy rate in urban centres of the province decreased from a year earlier. Charlottetown's vacancy rate was 2.3 per cent compared to 3.4 per cent last fall. Summerside's vacancy rate held steady at 1.4 per cent.

The pace of rental construction in the Charlottetown area increased throughout 2009 with a particularly strong final four months of the year. Some of these projects, however, had longer than expected construction periods and were not completed as early in 2010 as had been anticipated. As new rental structures must be completed and on the market for at least three months for inclusion in the rental market survey, some more recently built units are not included in the most recent rental market data. As these units under construction are completed and are brought on the market, the vacancy rate can be expected to increase. There were no new rental structures built in 2009 in Summerside but construction picked up in 2010 and these units will impact the vacancy situation next year.

The vacancy rate for two-bedroom units in Charlottetown declined to 2.5 per cent from 3.1 per cent last year. One-bedroom units recorded the largest change as the vacancy rate for these units decreased to 2.0 per cent from 4.4 per cent in 2009. For Summerside, the vacancy rate increased from zero per cent in 2009 to 2.1 per cent in 2010 in the one-bedroom units while a slight decline was recorded in the two-bedroom units.

The average rent (based on structures common to both the 2009 and 2010 surveys) for all bedroom types increased by 1.9 and 4.3 per cent in Charlottetown and Summerside, respectively, as compared to the same period last year. According to data collected in the 2010 survey, the average two-bedroom rent in Charlottetown was $731 per month, while in Summerside it was slightly lower at $661.

The availability rate in the Charlottetown CA decreased to 3.4 per cent in 2010 from last year's level of 4.9 per cent. In Summerside, the availability rate remained the same at 1.4 per cent in 2010.


Prince Edward Island Apartment Vacancy Rates
N
Summerside
1.4%
Charlottetown
2.3%
Legend
1.4% 2010 vacancy rate for Summerside
Vacancy rate in 2010 the same as 2009
Vacancy rate in 2010 higher than 2009
Vacancy rate in 2010 lower than 2009
0 5 10 20 30
Km

1.1.1 Private Apartment Vacancy Rates (%) by Bedroom Type Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10
Charlottetown CA	3.1 d	4.2 d	4.4 b	2.0 b	3.1 b	2.5 a	1.2 d	1.1 d	3.4 b	2.3 a
Summerside CA	**	**	0.0 b	2.1 a	1.4 a	1.2 a	3.5 a	0.0 a	1.4 a	1.4 a
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**2.9 c**	**4.6 d**	**4.0 b**	**2.0 b**	**2.8 a**	**2.3 a**	**1.9 c**	**0.8 a**	**3.1 b**	**2.2 a**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix link for more details

1.1.2 Private Apartment Average Rents ($) by Bedroom Type Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10
Charlottetown CA	447 a	477 a	560 a	577 a	701 a	731 a	801 a	834 a	658 a	683 a
Summerside CA	444 b	492 b	500 a	540 a	628 a	661 a	711 a	692 a	616 a	641 a
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**447 a**	**478 a**	**554 a**	**573 a**	**688 a**	**719 a**	**771 a**	**791 a**	**651 a**	**677 a**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates (cv = coefficient of variation):
a - Excellent ($0 \leq cv \leq 2.5$), b- Very good ($2.5 < cv \leq 5$), c - Good ($5 < cv \leq 7.5$), d - Fair (Use with Caution) ($7.5 < cv \leq 10$)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix link for more details

1.1.3 Number of Private Apartment Units Vacant and Universe in October 2010 by Bedroom Type Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total
Charlottetown CA	6 d	152	22 b	1,131	63 a	2,541	2 d	204	95 a	4,028
Summerside CA	**	10	3 a	146	6 a	512	0 a	80	10 a	748
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**7 d**	**163**	**26 b**	**1,276**	**70 a**	**3,053**	**2 a**	**285**	**105 a**	**4,776**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix link for more details

1.1.4 Private Apartment Availability Rates (%) by Bedroom Type Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10	Oct-09	Oct-10
Charlottetown CA	4.8 d	5.0 d	5.8 b	2.5 b	4.8 b	3.7 b	**	2.7 c	4.9 a	3.4 b
Summerside CA	**	**	0.0 b	2.1 a	1.4 a	1.2 a	3.5 a	0.0 a	1.4 a	1.4 a
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**4.5 d**	**5.3 d**	**5.2 b**	**2.4 a**	**4.2 b**	**3.3 b**	**2.3 c**	**1.9 c**	**4.3 a**	**3.1 b**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

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1.1.5 Private Apartment Estimate of Percentage Change (%) of Average Rent[1] by Bedroom Type
Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10	Oct-08 to Oct-09	Oct-09 to Oct-10
Charlottetown CA	6.7 b	1.4 d	5.3 a	2.4 a	4.6 a	2.1 a	3.7 c	2.2 c	4.8 a	1.9 a
Summerside CA	0.7 a	**	2.2 c	13.3 d	5.2 c	5.1 d	1.3 a	-0.6 a	4.3 c	4.3 d
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**6.0 b**	**2.2 c**	**5.0 a**	**3.3 b**	**4.7 a**	**2.5 a**	**3.2 c**	**1.7 c**	**4.7 a**	**2.2 a**

[1]The Percentage Change of Average Rent is a measure of the market movement, and is based on those structures that were common to the survey sample for both years.

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
++ Change in rent is not statistically significant. This means that the change in rent is not statistically different than zero (0).
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix link for more details

TECHNICAL NOTE:

Difference between Percentage Change of Average Rents (Existing and New Structures) AND Percentage Change of Average Rents from Fixed Sample (Existing Structures Only):

Percentage Change of Average Rents (New and Existing Structures): The increase/decrease obtained from the calculation of percentage change of average rents between two years (example: $500 in the previous year vs. $550 in current survey represents an increase of 10 percent) is impacted by changes in the composition of the rental universe (e.g. the inclusion of newly built luxury rental buildings in the survey, rental units renovated/upgraded or changing tenants could put upward pressure on average rents in comparison to the previous year) as well as by the rent level movement (e.g. increase/decrease in the level of rents that landlords charge their tenants).

Percentage Change of Average Rents from Fixed Sample (Existing Structures Only): This is a measure that estimates the rent level movement. The estimate is based on structures that were common to the survey sample for both the previous year and the current October Rental Market Surveys. However, some composition effects still remain e.g. rental units renovated/upgraded or changing tenants because the survey does not collect data to such level of details.

METHODOLOGY FOR RENTAL MARKET SURVEY

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts the **Rental Market Survey** (RMS) every year in April and October to estimate the relative strengths in the rental market. The survey is conducted on a sample basis in all urban areas with populations of 10,000 and more. The survey targets only privately initiated structures with at least three rental units, which have been on the market for at least three months. The survey collects market rent, available and vacant unit data from sampled structures. Most RMS data contained in this publication refer to privately initiated apartment structures.

The survey is conducted by a combination of telephone interviews and site visits, and information is obtained from the owner, manager, or building superintendent. The survey is conducted during the first two weeks of April/October, and the results reflect market conditions at that time.

CMHC's Rental Market Survey provides a snapshot of vacancy and availability rates, and average rents in both new and existing structures. In October 2006, CMHC has introduced a new measure for the change in rent that is calculated based on existing structures only. This estimate is based on structures that were common to the survey sample the previous year and the current year of the Rental Market Survey. The change in rent in existing structures is an estimate of the change in rent that the landlords charge and removes compositional effects on the rent level movement due to new buildings, conversions, and survey sample rotation. The estimate of per cent change in rent is available in the Rental Market Report – Canada Highlights , Provincial Highlights, and the local Rental Market Reports. The rent levels in new and existing structures are also published. While the per cent change in rents in existing structures published in the reports are statistically significant, changes in rents that one might calculate based on rent levels in new and existing structures may or may not be statistically significant.

METHODOLOGY FOR SECONDARY RENTAL MARKET SURVEY

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts a survey of the **Secondary Rental Market** (SRMS) in September and October to estimate the relative strengths in the secondary rental market which is defined as those dwellings not covered by the regular RMS. CMHC has identified the following dwelling components to be included in SRMS:

- Rented single-detached houses.
- Rented double (semi-detached) houses (i.e.. Two units of approximate equal size and under one roof that are situated either side-by-side or front-to-back).
- Rented freehold row/town homes.
- Rented duplex apartments (i.e.. one-above-other).
- Rented accessory apartments (separate dwelling units that are located within the structure of another dwelling type).
- Rented condominiums (can be any dwelling type but are primarily apartments).
- One or two apartments which are part of a commercial or other type of structure.

The SRMS has three components which are conducted in selected CMAs:

- A Household Rent Survey of all households to collect information about rents.
- A Condominium Apartment Rent Survey of households living in condominium apartments to collect information about rents.
- A Condominium Apartment Vacancy Survey of condominium apartment owners to collect vacancy information.

All three surveys are conducted by telephone interviews. For the condominium apartment vacancy survey, information is obtained from the owner, manager, or building superintendent and can be supplemented by site visits if no telephone contact is made. For the other two surveys, information is collected from an adult living in the household. All surveys are conducted in September and October, and the results reflect market conditions at that time.

CMHC publishes the number of units rented and vacancy rates for the condominium vacancy survey. For the condominium rent and household rent surveys, the average rent is published. A letter code representing the statistical reliability (i.e., the coefficient of variation (CV)) for each estimate is provided to indicate the data reliability. Rented condominium apartments were surveyed in the following CMAs: Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal and Québec (NOTE: condo rent data was not collected for Regina and Saskatoon). Other secondary rental market units were surveyed in Abbotsford, Barrie, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, St. John's, Toronto, Regina, Saskatoon, Kelowna, Vancouver and Victoria.

DEFINITIONS

Availability: A rental unit is considered available if the existing tenant has given, or has received, notice to move, and a new tenant has not signed a lease; or the unit is vacant (see definition of vacancy below).

Rent: The rent refers to the actual amount tenants pay for their unit. No adjustments are made for the inclusion or exclusion of amenities and services such as heat, hydro, parking, and hot water. For available and vacant units, the rent is the amount the owner is asking for the unit.

It should be noted that the average rents reported in this publication provide a sound indication of the amounts paid by unit size and geographical sector. Utilities such as heating, electricity and hot water may or may not be included in the rent.

Rental Apartment Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, of which at least one unit is not ground oriented. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count.

Rental Row (Townhouse) Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, all of which are ground oriented with vertical divisions. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count. These row units in some centres are commonly referred to as townhouses.

Vacancy: A unit is considered vacant if, at the time of the survey, it is physically unoccupied and available for immediate rental.

Definitions of Census Areas referred to in this publication are as follows:

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (known as the urban core). The census population count of the urban core is at least 10,000 to form a census agglomeration and at least 100,000 to form a census metropolitan area. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data. CMAs and CAs contain whole municipalities or Census Subdivisions.

All data presented in this publication is based on Statistics Canada's 2001 and 2006 Census area definitions.

Acknowledgement

The Rental Market Survey and the Secondary Rental Market Survey could not have been conducted without the cooperation of the rental property owners, managers, building superintendents and household members throughout Canada. CMHC acknowledges their hard work and assistance in providing timely and accurate information. As a result of their contribution, CMHC is able to provide information that benefits the entire housing industry.

Rental Affordability Indicator

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has developed a new rental affordability indicator to gauge how affordable a rental market is for those households which rent within that market. The level of income required for a household to rent a median priced two-bedroom apartment, using 30 per cent of its income, is calculated. The three-year moving average of median income of renters' households in a centre is then divided by this required income. The resulting number is then multiplied by 100 to form the indicator. A value above 100 indicates that less than 30 per cent of the median income is required to rent a two-bedroom apartment, conversely, a value below 100 indicates that more than 30 per cent of the median income is required to rent the same unit. In general, as the indicator increases, the market becomes more affordable; as the indicator declines, the market becomes less affordable.

Median renter household income estimates used in the calculation of the rental affordability indicator are based on results of Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics. Results for this survey are available from 1994 to 2005. CMHC has developed forecasts of median renter household income since 2006.

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